

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A prompt object on a computer-readable medium used in creating a report to be executed in a reporting system, wherein the report may specify a prompt object as a property of the report, the prompt object comprising:

a question to be asked of a user; and

at least one validation property;

wherein the prompt object is used in creating a report to be executed in a reporting system, wherein the report may specify a prompt object as a property of the report, and wherein the prompt object is an object separate from the report such that the prompt object may be used more than once in a single report or may be used in more than one report.

2. (Original) The prompt object of claim 1 further comprising a prompt type and wherein at least one validation property comprises verification that the answer provided to the question is of the specified prompt type.

3. (Original) The prompt object of claim 1 further comprising a default answer to the question.

4. (Original) The prompt object of claim 1 further comprising a meaning that, upon request by a responder to the prompt, provides an explanation of the question.

5. (Original) The prompt object of claim 1 further comprising a reuse value that indicates whether an answer provided from a previous instance of that prompt object, a default value or a new value is to be used for an answer to the question in the prompt object.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of creating a report to be executed on a reporting system the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a template with one or more template properties;

selecting a filter with one or more filter properties; and

specifying one or more of the template or filter properties with a prompt object;

wherein the prompt object comprises:

a question to be asked of a user; and

at least one validation property, wherein the prompt object is an object separate from the report and separate from the one or more templates or filters such that the prompt object may be used more than once in a single report or may be used in more than one report.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the prompt object further comprises a prompt type and wherein at least one validation property comprises verification that the answer provided to the question is of the specified prompt type.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the prompt object further comprises a default answer to the question.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the prompt object further comprises a meaning that, upon request by a responder to the prompt, provides an explanation of the question.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the prompt object further comprises a reuse value that indicates whether an answer provided from a previous instance of that prompt object, a default value or a new value is to be used for an answer to the question in the prompt object.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of specifying a single prompt object for a plurality of properties in the report and wherein upon report execution, the question receives only one answer that is provided to a each property ~~properties~~ for which the prompt object was specified.

12. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising specifying at most one prompt object for a template or filter property.

13. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the template comprises a set of templates properties and the filter comprises a set of filter properties and wherein every template and filter property may be specified as a prompt object.

14. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium comprising code for execution by a processor to create a report to be executed on a reporting system, the medium comprising:

code for causing a processor to enable a user to select a template with one or more template properties;

code for causing a processor to enable a user to select a filter with one or more filter properties; and

code for causing a processor to enable a user to specify one or more of the template or filter properties with a prompt object;

wherein the prompt object comprises:

a question to be asked of a user; and

at least one validation property, wherein the prompt object is an object separate from the report such that the prompt object may be used more than once in a single report or may be used in more than one report.

15. (Original) The medium of claim 14 wherein the prompt object further comprises a prompt type and wherein at least one validation property comprises verification that the answer provided to the question is of the specified prompt type.

16. (Original) The medium of claim 14 wherein the prompt object further comprises a default answer to the question.

17. (Original) The medium of claim 14 wherein the prompt object further comprises a meaning that, upon request by a responder to the prompt, provides an explanation of the question.

18. (Original) The medium of claim 14 wherein the prompt object further comprises a reuse value that indicates whether an answer provided from a previous instance of that prompt

object, a default value or a new value is to be used for an answer to the question in the prompt object.

19. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 14 further comprising code for enabling a user to specify a single prompt object for a plurality of properties in a report definition object and wherein upon report execution, the question receives only one answer that is provided to a each property ~~properties~~ for which the prompt object was specified.

20. (Original) The medium of claim 14 wherein the template comprises a set of templates properties and the filter comprises a set of filter properties and further comprising code for causing a processor to enable a user to specify a prompt object fear each template and filter property selected.

21. (Currently Amended) A system for a report to be executed on a reporting system comprising of:

report selection means embodied on a computer-readable medium that enables a report creator to define one or more of a template, filter, or properties thereof with a prompt object;

wherein the prompt object comprises:

a question to be asked of a user; and

at least one validation property, wherein the prompt object is an object separate from the report such that the prompt object may be used more than once in a single report or may be used in more than one report.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the prompt object further comprises a prompt type and wherein at least one validation property comprises verification that the answer provided to the question is of the specified prompt type.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the prompt object further comprises a default answer to the question.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the prompt object further comprises a meaning that, upon request by a responder to the prompt, provides an explanation of the question.
25. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the prompt object further comprises a reuse value that indicates whether an answer provided from a previous instance of that prompt object, a default value or a new value is to be used for an answer to the question in the prompt object.
26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein the report selection means enables a report creator to specify a single prompt object for a plurality of properties in the report and wherein upon report execution, the question receives only one answer that is provided to a each property ~~properties~~ for which the prompt object was specified.
27. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the report selection means enables a report creator to specify at most one prompt object for a template or filter property.
28. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the template comprises a set of templates properties and the filter comprises a set of filter properties and wherein every template and filter property may be specified as a prompt object.